

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 8, replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In each pair of the upper and lower flasks 2 and 3 of the two pairs, as shown in Fig. 4, a pair of connecting rods 14 is vertically positioned and slidably inserted in the front side and the rear side of the upper flask 2. The lower flask 3 is vertically and ~~slidaby~~ slidably supported on and across the connecting rods ~~[[3]]~~ 14. The lower ends of the connecting rods 14 can be engaged with the lower flask 3. Each pair of upper and lower flasks 2,3 is taken as a flask unit together with a match plate to be pinched therebetween in a molding procedure.